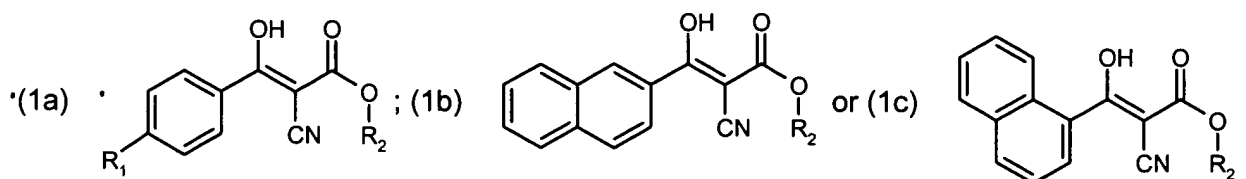
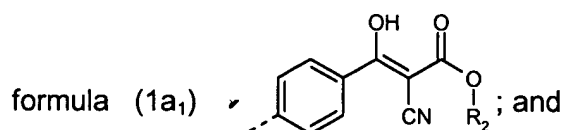


1. (original): 3-aryl-2-cyano-3-hydroxy-acrylic acid derivates of formula



wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy; CF_3 ; C_6 - C_{10} aryl; or a radical of



R_2 is hydrogen; or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

2. (original): Compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, wherein

R_1 is C_6 - C_{10} aryl.

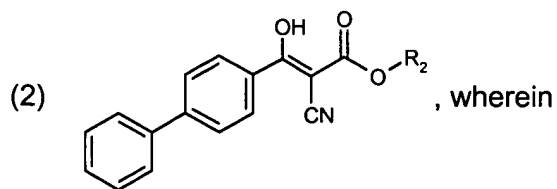
3. (currently amended): Compounds according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein

R_1 is phenyl.

4. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein

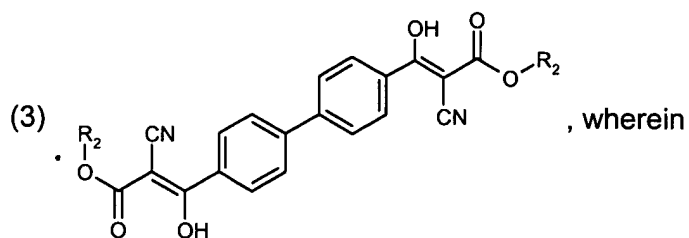
R_2 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

5. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which correspond to formula



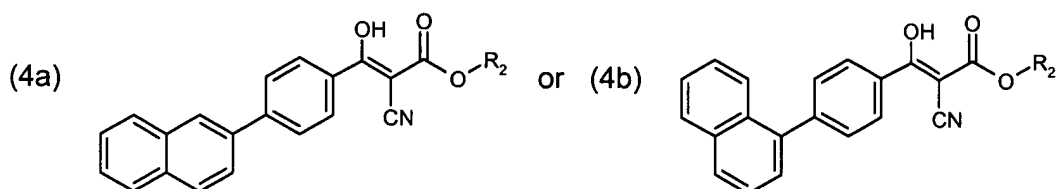
R_2 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

6. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which correspond to formula



R_2 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

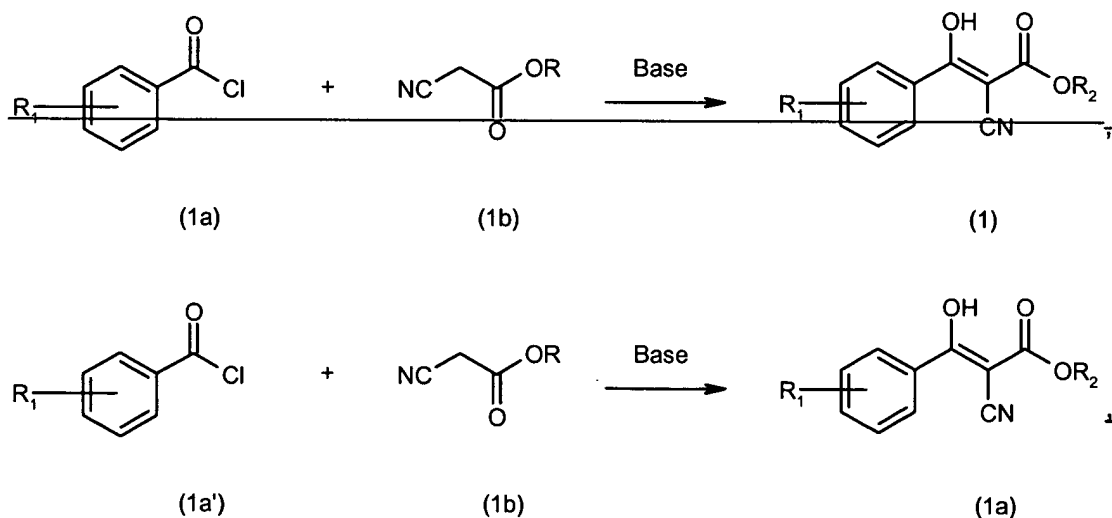
7. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which correspond to formulae



wherein

R_2 is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl.

8. (currently amended): Process for the preparation of the compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, which comprises condensing the cyanoacetate of formula ~~(1a)~~ (1b) with the carbon acid chloride of formula ~~(1b)~~ (1a') to the compound of formula (1a) according to the following reaction scheme:



wherein

R_1 and R_2 are defined as in claim 1.

9. (currently amended): ~~Use of the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to any of claims 1 to 7~~ A method for the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces, which comprises treating said surfaces with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 1.
10. (currently amended): ~~Use of the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 9 in method for the antimicrobial treatment, deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa and/or hair, which comprises treating said skin, mucosa or hair with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 1.~~
11. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 10, wherein treatment with the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) ~~results in~~ are used for the prevention of the adhesion of bacteria on surfaces and the further forming of the biofilms biofilms and ~~for~~ detaching the biofilm and/or ~~for~~ the inhibition of the ~~growth~~ growth of the biofilm-forming microorganisms in the a biological matrix or ~~for~~ killing them.
12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) for the treatment of textile fibre materials~~ are treated.
13. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) are used in preservation.
14. (currently amended): A method according ~~Use according to~~ claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) is incorporated ~~are used into~~ washing and cleaning formulations.
15. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) ~~are used~~ results in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving, plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.
16. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) for~~ results in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving technical products.
17. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c)~~ is employed as a biocide in technical processes.

18. (original): A personal care preparation comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

19. (original): An oral composition comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c), and orally tolerable adjuvants.